

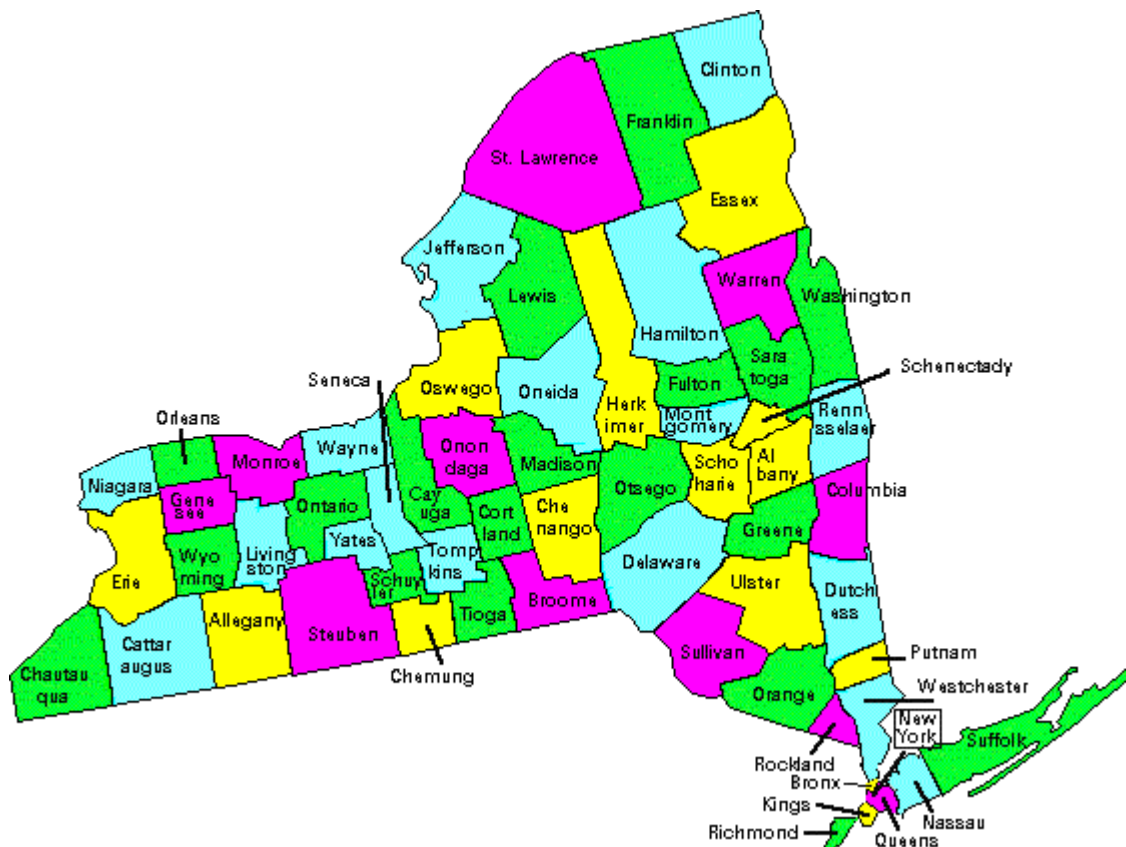
# Office of National Drug Control Policy

## Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

### Buffalo, New York

#### Profile of Drug Indicators

September 1999



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

## **Buffalo**

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, funding, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

### **Demographics<sup>1</sup>**

Geographic Area: Buffalo--Niagara Falls, NY

{PRIVATE}	
Subject	Number
Total population	954,332
SEX	
Male	450,348
Female	503,984
AGE	
Under 18 years	220,281
18 to 20 years	44,415
21 to 24 years	59,580
25 to 44 years	292,001
45 to 54 years	92,337
55 to 59 years	44,915
60 to 64 years	50,288
65 years and over	150,515
RACE AND HISPANIC ORIGIN	
White	810,504
Black	118,049
American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut	4,712
Asian or Pacific Islander	10,226
Other race	10,841
Hispanic origin (of any race)	22,324
ECONOMIC	
Below poverty level	122,916

- The City of Buffalo is located in Erie County in the western portion of New York State. Erie County is one of the Counties in New York that sits on the border of the United States and Canada.

## **Politics<sup>2</sup>**

- Mayor: Anthony M. Masiello
- Comptroller: Joel A. Giambra
- Police Commissioner: Rocco J. Diina
- Buffalo Common Council President: James W. Pitts
- Buffalo Common Council: Rosemarie Lo Tempio, Alfred T. Coppola, Barbara Miller-Williams, David A. Franczyk, Robert W. Brown, Robert Quintana, Dale Zuchlewski, Dennis T. Manley, Kevin J. Helfer
- Sheriff Erie County: Patrick M. Gallivan

## **Programs/Initiatives**

- The Weed and Seed strategy in Buffalo has been a catalyst for unprecedented communication and collaboration that has improved the quality of life for thousands of families on Buffalo's east side. The following programs are parts of the Buffalo Weed and Seed Strategy:
  - LAW ENFORCEMENT: The first goal is for intensive crackdowns and removal of illegal weapons and drugs from "hot spots" in the target area. Second is the use of one detailed and dedicated patrol car with coordinated drug sweeps in pre-selected area by the DEA. Finally, follow-up investigations regarding sources of seized weapons, preventative controls, and close work with a designated personnel from the District Attorney's Office to ensure aggressive prosecution of illegal drug and gun cases.
  - NEIGHBORHOOD RESTORATION: To improve the physical infrastructure of the area through graffiti removal, by rehabilitating housing or unsafe structures; expand and stabilize area business and employment opportunities; increase home ownership; physically clean up and beautify the area; address any environmental concerns; implement neighborhood-based planning and development as part of on-going city initiatives; strengthen code compliance measures and enforcement; and utilize advanced telecommunications to link "weeding" and "seeding" efforts in the targeted area.
  - PREVENTION/INTERVENTION/TREATMENT: To conduct gun and drug abuse impact programs demonstrating the tragic impacts of illegal weapons and drugs on a community; sponsor joint problem-solving sessions with area residents to enhance the effects of the program; provide meaningful after school programs at the Safe Haven for youth and residents to complete their education, develop positive community attitudes and opportunities, parent involvement, peer accountability, and sensitivity programs; conduct at least one job fair, preparation and "apprenticeship" training programs to reduce unemployment and crime; and offer preventive social health programs against drug abuse and teenage pregnancy to mitigate the recurrence of crime and violence.<sup>3</sup>
- The Youth and Police Committee implemented Buffalo's first Youth and Police Summit. The initial round table discussion opened up lines of communication by allowing area youth and police to openly discuss such issues as curfew, drugs, and weapons in schools and stereotyping. The feed back was tremendous and resulted in additional summits bring held at the annual Block Club Conference in the Fall of 1995 and at four inner city high schools during the 1996/97 school year. All Buffalo high schools (public and private) are now being encouraged to hold Youth an Police

panel discussions and to utilize the feedback for class debates. Youth and Police Committee members are available for technical assistance in planning a panel discussion.

In 1997, the committee planned the first Youth Police Academy. Seventh and eighth grade students had an opportunity to hear detectives, prosecutors and counselors speak about crime issues that are relevant to children at this age level. In keeping with the committee's mission to improve police/youth relations, members have acted as chaperones for youth to participate in the Police Ride-a-Long Program.<sup>4</sup>

### **Crime and Drug-Related Crime<sup>5</sup>**

- The number of murders in Buffalo fell 11% from 47 in 1997 to 42 in 1998. The total number of violent part 1 offenses fell 13% from 1997 to 1998.

#### **Crimes in Buffalo 1997-1998**

<b>Crime</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>Change</b>
Murder	47	42	-11%
Rape	230	197	-14%
Robbery	2,195	1,736	-21%
Assault	1,542	1,513	-2%
Sub-Total Violent Crime	4,014	3,488	-13%
Burglary	5,984	5,155	-14%
Larceny	11,424	10,713	-6%
Motor Vehicle Theft	3,870	2,968	-23%
Sub-Total Property Crime	21,278	18,836	-11%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25,292</b>	<b>22,324</b>	<b>-12%</b>

- The number of arrests for drug possession in Buffalo increased 46% from 3,882 in 1996 to 4,422 in 1997. The number of arrests for drug sales also increased from 213 in 1996 to 296 in 1997.
- The Buffalo Police Department had a total of 1,333 personnel in 1997, 934 of them were sworn personnel and 399 were civilian.

### **Drugs**

- The following is an excerpt from The Erie County Sheriff's Office Strategy to deal with drugs and crime in Erie County..."There have been far too many deaths in Erie County that are drug and alcohol related. More than half of the criminal cases brought into our courts are directly related to substance abuse problems. With enforcement efforts and community cooperation, these senseless tragedies can be eliminated or greatly reduced and the delays in criminal prosecutions can be shortened. We must recognize that Buffalo, as a major urban area in close proximity to an international border, has a special appeal to those wishing to distribute illicit narcotics. This proliferation of narcotics has a negative impact on all of Western New York, particularly Erie County. Our community must pool its resources to combat this problem. To accomplish these objectives, my department will implement the following initiatives:

- Conduct a county-wide drug and alcohol abuse summit bringing together educators, law enforcement personnel, parents, elected officials and community leaders to develop cooperative strategies to battle this problem of drugs and alcohol;
- Enhance countywide coordinated drug enforcement efforts as equal partners with local, state and federal agencies;
- Continue the county's role in education programs such as Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) for elementary school age children and ensure that every school in the county has access to such programs;
- Develop and present education and prevention training programs for older students to reinforce earlier training programs;
- Work with the board of cooperative education (BOCES) and other adult continuing education programs to assist parents in recognizing and curtailing substance abuse by their children;
- Maximize drug interdiction efforts through cooperation with local, state and federal agencies aimed at curtailing the shipment of illegal substances by private vehicles, boats and public transportation;
- Speak out against legislation to legalize illicit drugs. Such action sends the wrong message to our children. It undermines our combined efforts to become a drug free society."<sup>6</sup>

➤ The number of emergency department drug episodes in Buffalo fell from 3,587 in 1996 to 2,812 in 1997.<sup>7</sup>

Estimated Number of drug-related episodes and mentions, Buffalo 1996-97

	1996	1997
Drug Episodes	3,587	2,812
Drug Mentions	6,685	5,286
Cocaine*	2,203	1,526
Heroin/Morphine*	448	471
Marijuana/Hashish*	512	472
Methamphetamine*	0	0

\*mentions

- The number of drug abuse deaths in the Buffalo/Niagara Falls area fell from 138 in 1995 to 117 in 1996.<sup>8</sup>

#### Drug Abuse Deaths in Buffalo/Niagara Falls, 1995-96

<b>Selected Characteristics</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1996</b>
Total drug-abuse episodes	138	117
<b>GENDER</b>		
Male	98	81
Female	37	36
<b>RACE/ETHNICITY</b>		
White	89	81
Black	42	32
Hispanic	5	3
Other	1	1
Unknown	1	0
<b>AGE</b>		
6-17	2	3
18-25	15	11
26-34	23	23
35 and up	98	80
<b>SELECTED DRUGS</b>		
Alcohol-in-comb	49	31
Cocaine	56	39
Heroin/Morphine	46	37
Marijuana/Hashish	24	8
Methadone	2	5
Methamphetamine	0	0
PCP	0	0
<b>Total Drug Mentions</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>295</b>

#### Sources

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Bureau Web site: <http://www.census.gov>

<sup>2</sup> City of Buffalo Web site: <http://www.ci.buffalo.ny.us/>

<sup>3</sup> Executive Office of Weed and Seed Web site: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/eows.htm>

<sup>4</sup> City of Buffalo Police Department Web site: <http://www.police.ci.buffalo.ny.us/>

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Erie County Sheriff's Office Web site: <http://www.erie.gov/sheriff/>

<sup>7</sup> Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *Year-End 1997 Emergency Department Data from the Drug Abuse Warning Network*, May 1999

<sup>8</sup> Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *Drug Abuse Warning Network, Annual Medical Examiner Data 1996*, July 1998

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The Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse  
PO Box 6000  
Rockville, MD 20849-6000  
1-800-666-3332  
<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov>  
[ondcp@ncjrs.org](mailto:ondcp@ncjrs.org)

